

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 21, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:20 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Vernon Brown, Chair
Bob Cockrum
Susie Day
Ron Gibson
Monroe Gray, Jr.
Dane Mahern
William Oliver
Earl Salisbury

Absent Members

PROPOSAL NO. 484, 2006 - approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's interest and need to purchase approximately one (1) acre of land adjacent to the main entrance to Krannert Park

"Do Pass as Amended"

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 485, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$73,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Park General Fund) to purchase a parcel of land to allow for widening the entrance to Krannert Park, financed by the balance remaining in the Parks Department's Land fund (a sub-fund of Park General)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 486, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$4,744 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Park General Fund) to pay for equipment, field maintenance, uniforms and other costs associated with a youth baseball program held this summer at Riverside Park, financed by a grant from the Cal Ripken Senior Foundation

"Do Pass"

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 487, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$45,395 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Non-Lapsing State Grants Fund) to renovate and pave basketball courts with asphalt that has been integrated with recycled tire materials at Douglass, Pride, Hawthorne, Bertha Ross and Denver Parks, financed by grants from the Indiana Department of Environmental Services (IDEM)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 488, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$265,250 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (City Cumulative Capital Fund) to restore funds from a prior year purchase order that will be used toward the cost of constructing the Earth Discovery Center at Eagle Creek Park
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, September 21, 2006. Chair Vernon Brown called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. with the following members present: Bob Cockrum, Susie Day, Ron Gibson, Monroe Gray, Jr., Dane Mahern, William "Duke" Oliver, and Earl Salisbury.

Joseph Wynns, Director Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), introduced Jason Gabehart, who replaced Stephanie Seawell as grant coordinator for DPR. Mr. Gabehart stated that he has been with DPR for about a year.

Chair Brown asked for consent to hear Proposal Nos. 484 – 485, 2006 together. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 484, 2006 - approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's interest and need to purchase approximately one (1) acre of land adjacent to the main entrance to Krannert Park

PROPOSAL NO. 485, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$73,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Park General Fund) to purchase a parcel of land to allow for widening the entrance to Krannert Park, financed by the balance remaining in the Parks Department's Land fund (a sub-fund of Park General)

Paul Smith, Real Estate Manager for DPR, stated that the proposal is really straight forward. These are two resolutions that are tied together and both of them have to do with the purchase of some property next to the main entrance at Krannert Park. He said that the owner of the house has unfortunately passed away and there was an opportunity to sell the property to DPR. He said that DPR had the property appraised which came to \$90,000. Mr. Smith stated that there were funds found in the Parks Land Fund, and they added some capital funds to come up with the \$90,000. He said that council approval is needed, because the amount is over \$25,000. He stated that the funds have to be appropriated into DPR's account from the Park Land Fund.

Councillor Salisbury stated that he runs at Krannert Park every morning and enjoys it very much. He said that with there being a lot of accidents, there seems to be a safety consideration. Councillor Salisbury asked if the property was north or south of the main entrance and if it included the house and the acreage behind it. Don Colvin, Administrator for DPR, answered in the affirmative stating that it was north of the main entrance.

Councillor Mahern asked if there will be additional appropriations or if there are already enough funds to demolish the house. Mr. Colvin stated that typically those funds come out of the capital improvement budget, so there will be no additional appropriations.

Councillor Cockrum stated that there should be a technical correction in the proposal where the word, "north" should replace "south" in the second WHEREAS paragraph. Councillor Day also noted that in the proposal under Section 1, the word, "north" should replace "south"

Councillor Cockrum moved, seconded by Councillor Salisbury to make a technical amendment to change the word "south" to "north" throughout the proposal. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

Councillor Brown asked how big is the house and if the demolition will be scheduled. Mr. Smith stated that the house is about 1,500 to 2,000 square feet. Mr. Colvin stated that traditionally how DPR obtains quotes from several vendors, and then DPR will take the lowest qualified vendor to demolish the property.

Chair Brown stated that the reason for his question is that the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) looks for structures that are to be demolished to use for training. Mr. Smith stated that he will look forward to talking with Councillor Brown to discuss those options.

Councillor Oliver asked Mr. Smith to explain the location as he could not visualize it. Mr. Smith stated that the land is right next door to the entrance, and when this land is added to the park, DPR can actually widen or move the entrance drive over and make it wider. He said that when public safety vehicles are trying to get into the park in an emergency, it is just impossible with the current entrance. Mr. Smith stated that with the purchase of this property, DPR will be able to widen the driveway in such a way as to allow not only the regular vehicles but, public safety vehicles as well. Mr. Wynns added that right now, it is wide enough for a one-way entrance and there is two-way traffic going through. He stated if DPR does not want accidents to happen.

Councillor Salisbury moved, seconded by Councillor Gibson, to send Proposal No. 484, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation, and Proposal No. 485, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 486, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$4,744 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Park General Fund) to pay for equipment, field maintenance, uniforms and other costs associated with a youth baseball program held this summer at Riverside Park, financed by a grant from the Cal Ripken Senior Foundation

Jason Gabehart, DPR Grants Manager stated that this proposal is basically self explanatory. He said there is no match for the grant and that the grant strictly pays for the program at Riverside Park.

Councillor Oliver stated that he did not understand why that high of an amount needs to be appropriated to pay for equipment, field maintenance, uniforms, and other costs from the Cal Ripken Foundation. He also asked how far those funds will go for the different teams. Mr. Gabehart stated that in the original proposal, it was proposed that 48 children will actually be served and divided up into four teams. He said that after it was implemented, DPR had 34 children that attended the league and benefited from the grant. Councillor Oliver asked how the field maintenance and the purchasing of equipment ties into the amount requested. Mr. Gabehart stated that field maintenance means fixing up the baseball mound, each individual base, home plate and just the basics. He stated that it was not necessarily going out and renovating the field, it is just adding small improvements. Councillor Oliver asked how many uniforms there were and what the names of the teams are. Mr. Gabehart stated that there are approximately 48 uniforms, and that he only remembers the A's and the White Sox.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal No. 486, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 487, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$45,395 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Non-Lapsing State Grants Fund) to renovate and pave basketball courts with asphalt that has been integrated with recycled tire materials at Douglass, Pride, Hawthorne, Bertha Ross and Denver Parks, financed by grants from the Indiana Department of Environmental Services (IDEM)

Mr. Gabehart stated that DPR was awarded two grants from Indiana Department of Environmental Services (IDEM). He said that at each of the parks listed, DPR is going to renovate the basketball courts using an environmentally friendly asphalt surface that is made from recycled tires. He said that from research studied, the recycled tires help to compact the asphalt and make it last longer. Mr. Colvin stated that this project helps the environment by using recycled resources. He said that DPR thinks this will help reduce injury on some of the courts, because you can get better traction for the players. He stated that this is an experiment and DPR is hoping to get a longer life expectancy so those dollars are better invested. Mr. Wynns stated that the goal is to complete every hard surface, including the parks, parking lots, tennis courts, and basketball courts by 2009.

Councillor Cockrum asked if DPR has a comparison of costs. Mr. Colvin stated that it is a little more costly up front because of the newness of the project. He said that he does not have an exact answer at this time but will be happy to report back in a couple of years with the results.

Councillor Gray stated that a few years ago, Indiana was to become the test market for this project, and asked if those projects for the basketball courts were accomplished. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative stating that Indiana was the first and since then, it has been opened up to a couple of cities in Indiana. Councillor Gray asked if the cart paths were going to be redone at the various golf courses. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Cockrum asked if there is a local business that does mixing of the asphalt. Mr. Colvin stated that there is a specialist at IDEM that understands the process and that person goes to the local asphalt plant and actually injects it at the plant.

Councillor Brown stated that he hopes DPR can aggressively pursue getting some grants to resurface individual tennis courts. Mr. Wynns said that project will begin in 2007.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Salisbury, to send Proposal No. 487, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 488, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$265,250 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (City Cumulative Capital Fund) to restore funds from a prior year purchase order that will be used toward the cost of constructing the Earth Discovery Center at Eagle Creek Park

Wayne Simpson, DPR Chief Financial Officer stated that these funds are to finish the Earth Discovery Center. He said that due to some accounting problems that caused DPR to cancel the appropriation; the funds went back into the fund balance. Mr. Simpson stated that this ordinance re-appropriates those funds so that DPR can continue to finish the Discovery Center. Councillor Brown asked for the date of completion on the Discovery Center. Mr. Colvin stated that DPR is about 80% complete and the target date is for the end of December 2006.

Councillor Gray moved, seconded by Councillor Gibson, to send Proposal No. 488, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

Councillor Cockrum asked Mr. Wynns to give a brief description on the accident that happened at Eagle Creek Park. Mr. Wynns stated that there was an unfortunate drowning at Eagle Creek. He said that three young, Hispanic men were swimming in the cove area, which is a non-swimming area. He said that one person was under water for about 25 minutes and the water temperature was about 67 degrees. Mr. Wynns stated that with those temperatures, hyperthermia and cramps set in. He said that it is a tragedy because there are a lot of Hispanics using Eagle Creek. Mr. Wynns stated that there are signs up all over warning of the dangerous area in the park. Chair Brown asked if those signs are in English and Spanish. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative. Mr. Wynns stated that DPR will continue to keep posting signs everywhere.

Mr. Wynns thanked the committee for their support for the Parks budget. He stated that DPR will do the best to spend the funds wisely and not be foolish in our expenditures.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Brown, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

VB/law